DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 322-1019

February 4, 1986

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I- 09-86

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF TIME-ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR REFUGEE

PROGRAM COSTS

REFERENCE:

On December 10, 1985, Congress passed the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings) which the President signed into law on December 12 (Public Law 99-177).

The State has been notified that a reduction of 4.3% is planned to be imposed under this Act on the funds available to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), including the funds available for ORR's grants to States for cash assistance, medical assistance, and related administrative costs (CMA grants). As a result of the 4.3% reduction, ORR has indicated that it feels that sufficient funds are not available to continue the policy of providing funding for these costs for the 36-month policy. Therefore, ORR has notified us that it plans to modify its current policy of funding these costs for refugees during their first 36 months in the country to allow funding for only the first 31 months. This modification is effective March 1, 1986.

The reduction to 31 months affects funding for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, MediCal, SSI/SSP and General Assistance programs. It is not clear if Refugee Demonstration Project funding is affected by this policy decision. The Office of Refugee Services has requested clarification on this point, at which time specific instructions for State implementation will be issued to the counties. In the interim, counties should immediately identify all refugee cases who will be affected by this decision, i.e., cases which will meet or have met the 31-month cutoff as of March 1, 1986.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Walter Barnes, Chief, Office of Refugee Services at (916) 324-1576.

Sincerely,

Carl B. WILLIAMS.

Deputy Director

Employment and Government Services

cc: CWDA